AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-43. (Previously cancelled)

44. (Currently amended) A method for ~~simultaneous separate multiepitope~~ detection of a[[n]] plurality of analytes in a sample, ~~the analyte comprising at least two epitopes,~~ the plurality of analytes derived from one pathogen, and the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a solid phase comprising a non-porous support, at least two ~~a first and a second~~ spatially separate test areas, wherein a first test area has a first analyte-specific receptor bound thereto, and a second test area has a second analyte-specific receptor bound thereto, each spatially separate test area having ~~and at least a first and a second receptor, the first and second receptors binding specifically with said analyte but to different epitopes, the first receptor binding specifically with the analyte via a first epitope and the second receptor binding specifically with the analyte via a second epitope, the first receptor bound directly or indirectly to the first test area and the second receptor bound directly or indirectly to the second test area, there being~~ no more than one type of analyte-specific receptor bound thereto, and wherein the first receptor and the second receptor bind to different analytes in the sample ~~per test area and there being an inert surface between the test areas which does not bind to the analyte or other sample components,~~;

(b) contacting the sample with the solid phase and with a detection reagent comprising one or more ~~of a~~ third receptors to allow binding of the third receptors to the analytes bound to the test area, each third receptor ~~that binds specifically with the analyte and that is bound~~ directly or indirectly labeled with[[~~to~~]] a signal generating group[~~, and~~];

(c) ~~spatially~~ separately measuring ~~determining~~ presence or amount of a signal generated by the signal generating group bound to [[~~on~~]] the first and second test areas~~, wherein said signal generating group is bound to the first test area or the second test area or the first and second test areas via said analyte, as a measure of the analyte in said sample, wherein a positive test result obtained via a test area~~

~~specific cut-off on one test area is sufficient for indicating the presence of the analyte in said sample,; and~~

(d) calculating a test area-specific cut-off index (COI) on each test area wherein a COI larger than 1 for one test area is indicative for presence of a specific analyte in the sample.

~~wherein a single application of the sample is contacted with the solid phase, and wherein the single application of the sample contacts the first and second spatially separate test areas.~~

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44 wherein the plurality of analytes is selected from the group consisting of HIV I, HIV II, HBV, and HCV-antibodies and HIV antigens.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44 wherein each test area has a diameter of 0.01 to 1 mm.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44 wherein the solid phase further comprises a control area for detecting false results caused by interferences.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44 wherein ~~said~~ the detection reagent comprises ~~one or more of a~~ at least one third receptor ~~that binds specifically with~~ that is specific for the analyte and a signal-generating group which is either directly bound to the third receptor or which is a universal detection reagent comprising labelled latex particles which binds to the third receptor.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Canceled)

51. (Canceled)

52. (Canceled)

53-72. (Previously cancelled)

73. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44, wherein the plurality of analytes comprises at least two different antigens or at least two different antibodies or at least one antigen and one antibody.

74. (Previously Canceled)

75. (New) The method of claim 73, wherein the plurality of analytes comprises HIV p24 antigen, antibodies to HIV gp41 polypeptide, or antibodies to HIV reverse transcriptase (RT).

76. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the signal generating group comprises a fluorescent group, a chemiluminescent group, an enzyme, a radioactive group or a sol particle group.

77. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the pathogen is selected from the group consisting of HIV I, HIV II, HBV, and HCV.

78. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the COI is calculated by the formula: COI = $signal_{sample}$- $background_{sample}$/n x $background_{negative\ control}$, the n ranging between 2 and 100.

79. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein n ranges between 2 and 10.

80. (New) The method of claim 79, wherein n is 2.